



**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the
Swanage Town & Community Partnership
held at The Town Hall, Swanage on
WEDNESDAY, 21st DECEMBER 2016 @ 3.30 p.m.**

Present:

Kim Gallagher, Chairman ST&CP
Mike Bonfield, Vice Chairman ST&CP; Swanage Town Councillor
Martin Ayres, Town Clerk, Swanage Town Council; Honorary Treasurer ST&CP
John Bishop, Swanage Town Councillor
Peter Bowyer, Studland Parish Councillor
Robin Brasher, Isle of Purbeck Model Railway Group; Swanage Walking Group
Colin Brixton, CPRE; Photographic Society; Purbeck Society
Niki Clark, Management Support Officer, Swanage Town Council
Peter Clark, Swanage Cricket Club
Collete Ford, Swanage Children's Centre
Bob Foster, Rotary; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Laurence Gloyn-Cox, Swanage Coastal Change Forum; Probus2
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Sarah Randall, Swanage Library
Bill Trite, Dorset County, Purbeck District, and Swanage Town Councillor
Mark Watson, Swanage & Herston Football Club

Also in attendance:

There were no members of the public present.

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Mrs Kim Gallagher, welcomed all Partners to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from David Bale (Mowlem Institute Charity), Charlotte Dooley & Ali Tuckey (Durlston Country Park), Collette Drayson (Langton PC), Caroline Finch (STC & Chamber of Trade), Jean Gibbs (SADFC), Neil Hardy (Swanage RNLI), and Dave Morton (POPP).

3. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 14th September 2016

Proposed that these were a true record by Mr Mel Norris, seconded by Mr Colin Brixton and agreed unanimously.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters raised.

5. Swanage2027 Steering Committee (S2027) – update on identified projects and priorities

A copy of the updated list of S2027 priorities for 2017/18 was provided to Partners, along with copies of the minutes of the S2027 Meetings held on 7th September and 7th December 2017, for information purposes. A brief overview of the meetings was given by the Chairman, and it was reported that new priorities had been added to the list. Updates were given as follows:

- **Community bus/transport** – a meeting had been held with Durlston Country Park (DCP) to explore options, and representatives from DCP had been invited to the March Quarterly Meeting to provide details of the Park's 'Durlston Pleasure Grounds' project, current Lottery Bid, and the potential opportunities it could bring for residents and partner organisations.
- **Bandstand/performance space** – a meeting was due to be held with the Town Band.
- **Beach Gardens** – a review would be undertaken regarding the future management of these important leisure facilities.
- **Local Listing** – the Purbeck Society continued to liaise with PDC's Design and Conservation Officer, and the possibility of funding options was being explored. The Committee was also awaiting developments regarding PDC's recently approved proposal to examine measures required to protect the existing Swanage Conservation Area.

Following the update, a question was raised as to how the Committee decided on the order of priorities. A discussion ensued, during which it was agreed that the list needed to be realistic/pragmatic, and therefore a shorter 'proactive' list was preferred, rather than a lengthy 'wish list'. A further question was raised regarding the loss of character features in the Swanage Conservation Area, and whether this should be raised as a planning issue with PDC.

6. Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust (S&PDT) – update

It was reported that Membership continued to grow. There were now six members, and discussions were ongoing with two further organisations who were interested in joining.

The Trustees had been working with the Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre on proposals for a new, combined, Museum and Heritage Centre and Tourist Information Centre. Agreement in principle had been given by the Town Council to use the old shelter site in Shore Road, which had been identified as the best location for such a new facility, and discussions were ongoing. Funding options were being explored, and structural/flood risk surveys would be undertaken. The proposals were in early stages, however, it was hoped that, if the new centre went ahead, it would become a 'hub'/tourist attraction, incorporating local heritage, culture, art, and tourism services, all under one roof.

Updates were also given on the following projects:

- **Sea Defence proposals** - in light of the recent storm damage seen in the town, this project was seen as a priority, and concerns were raised regarding rising sea levels, climate change, and flood risk. S&PDT would be working in partnership with Swanage Coastal Change Forum, the Environment Agency, Town Council, and District Engineer, to formulate proposals. However, further research needed to be undertaken before funding options could be explored/progressed.
- **Swanage & Herston Football Club** – S&PDT had been working with the Football Club on a business plan setting out proposals for its future development. The Town Council had given agreement in principle to a 100-year lease of land at Day's Park, and the Club was eager to develop/improve the site. The first team would be applying to the F.A. for promotion to the Wessex League Division 1, and the football ground was in need of updating to achieve the required 'ground grading'. It was also planned for the youth teams' matches to be held at the ground in the future. Further updates would be given on the progress of this project at future meetings.

7. The Centre – update

It was reported that the redecoration of the building was progressing well, consideration was now being given to the acoustics, and quotations were being obtained for new lighting. However, there was no heating in the building, the heating system was still in need of repair.

Updates were given as follows:

- Purbeck Runners had reported an increase in club membership since using The Centre as a meeting place on a Wednesday evening, and would be starting at an earlier time of 6.00 p.m. to accommodate two sets of junior runs.
- A number of organisations were eager to use the facilities, weekends were still available at present, however, Tuesday and Friday evenings were being kept free for youth sessions, and Thursday evenings for a voluntary Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) session.
- Focus groups would be held during January 2017 to find out what young people wanted from the youth service/sessions.
- Discussions were at an advanced stage with an early years childcare facility, which would be open five days per week, from 7.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m., and would include breakfast and afterschool sessions, and school holiday care. An application for registration had been made to Ofsted, and a visit from them was due imminently. It was hoped that DCC would provide some additional financial support, and that the facility would be up and running by March/April 2017.
- S&PDT continued to explore grant funding options, and Dorset Community Action had produced a draft grant funding request letter which would be submitted to the Talbot Village Trust in due course.

8. Any other business

a) Swanage Local Plan (SLP) – update – the six-week public consultation on the proposed ‘Main Modifications’ had closed on 9th December 2017. It was reported that a small number of responses to the consultation had been received by PDC, and these would be submitted to the Inspector for review before she prepared her final report into the soundness of the plan. It was hoped that the town could therefore have an adopted Local Plan in place before the end of 2017. It was further reported that the Swanage Green Infrastructure Strategy was nearing completion, S2027 would be reviewing the completed document when available, and would report back to ST&CP.

During the discussion concerns were raised regarding the PLP review, and a possible review of the proposed housing numbers for Swanage which may be increased, the lengthy timescales of both the SLP Inspector’s hearing/report, and the Herston Fields Village Green application. It was felt that a decision should not be made on housing numbers until the SLP had been adopted, and a decision made regarding Herston Fields. It was noted that the SLP Steering Group would continue to meet during the PLP review process, and that minutes of these meetings would be available online.

b) Local Government Reorganisation Public Consultation – update – the public consultation had ended on 25th October 2017. Dorset’s nine councils would be considering the results of the consultation, and independent financial analysis, at council meetings during January 2017. If the councils decided to proceed with local government reform, a business case would be presented to government early in 2017. Comments were made that, if the reform went ahead, decisions would be made further away from the communities affected by them. Concerns were raised regarding the potential impact this could have on localism, and local identity/loyalty.

c) Admiral Nurse – the funding target had been reached, and the recruitment process for an Admiral Nurse for the Purbeck area would commence in January 2017.

d) Volunteer Bureau – a meeting would be held at The Centre on 11th January 2017 at 9.30 a.m. to discuss proposals for a new ‘Volunteer Bureau’, and to agree a way forward that would

promote volunteering opportunities and make volunteering even more accessible in Swanage. Anyone interested in this new initiative was welcome to attend the meeting.

e) I.O.P Model Railway Group – the group was currently in the process of improving facilities at Godlingston, which included heating, and the installation of a disabled access lift.

f) ‘Dippy on Tour’ 2018/20 – Dorset County Museum – the County Museum would be the first stop for the Natural History Museum’s famous Diplodocus, which would be on tour from February 2018 to October 2020. Dippy would be in Dorchester from 10th February to 8th May 2018. Local Children’s Centres and libraries would be promoting the free exhibition, and other special events happening along the Jurassic Coast, and across Dorset, during this time.

9. Date of Next Quarterly Meeting

The date of the next Quarterly Meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at the Town Hall, Swanage, at 3.30 p.m. Partners were encouraged to contact the Chairman with any suggestions for future agenda items, and the Chairman gave thanks to Partners for their continued support during 2016.

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m., and was followed by:

10. Partner networking and information sharing
